

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families and communities across our great nation; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, 2nd among people between the ages 10-35, and approximately 129 Americans die by suicide each day accounting for 47,173 suicide deaths in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the number of suicides by Veteran and Service Members exceeded 6,000 each year between 2008-2017; and

WHEREAS, the President issued Executive Order 13861 establishing the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide or PREVENTS, calling for the development of a comprehensive plan to empower Veterans and end to suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritized research activities and strengthened collaboration across the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the PREVENTS national public health campaign "REACH" will seek to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families that brings together interagency teams to address Veteran suicide at the state level; and

WHEREAS, for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared, there are scores of others in every community who want to help, but may do not know how; and

WHEREAS, our Mississippi businesses are in the unique position to learn from their employees, including Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, and collaborate on meaningful solutions:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi do hereby proclaim Mississippi's full support for the implementation of the PREVENTS "Roadmap;" commitment to working with all Americans and the whole of government to help identify Veterans and other citizens in need of care and developing best practices around mental health; and intention to prioritize mental health in the workplace.

I further proclaim September 10, 2020, as

LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

in Mississippi and call upon all Mississippians, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, health care providers, first responders, the criminal justice community, institutions of higher learning, the faith-based community, the arts community and the research sector in the great State of Mississippi to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety and self-directed violence; to support services available in their respective communities to address mental health issues and suicide prevention; and to encourage all those in need to REACH to access help, hope and community.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 29TH day of August in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR